

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A method for maintaining and restoring hair color in an animal, comprising the steps of:

(a) adding an effective amount of a directly available amino acid ~~selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, phenylalanine and mixtures thereof~~ to an animal consumable product having at least one indirectly available amino acid tyrosine therein to produce a supplemented consumable; and

(b) feeding an efficacious amount of said supplemented consumable to an animal selected from the group consisting of cats and dogs to maintain and restore hair color in the animal.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said effective amount of directly available tyrosine comprises at least approximately 0.05% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said effective amount of directly available tyrosine comprises at least approximately 0.10% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

8. (currently amended) A method of promoting in an animal the synthesis of hair melanin comprising:

feeding an animal selected from the group consisting of a cat and a dog a nutritional diet comprising more than 0.50% by weight of ~~an amino acid selected from the group~~

5 ~~consisting of tyrosine, phenylalanine, and mixtures thereof~~, to promote in the animal the
6 synthesis of hair melanin.

1 9. (currently amended) A method of Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet
2 comprises from about 1.65% by weight to about 2.40% by weight of ~~said amino acid~~ tyrosine.

1 10. (currently amended) A method of Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet
2 comprises more than 0.80% by weight of indirectly available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine.

1 11. (currently amended) A method of Claim 9 wherein said nutritional diet
2 comprises more than 0.80% by weight of indirectly available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine.

1 12. (currently amended) A method of Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet
2 comprises more than 0.70% by weight of directly available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine.

1 13. (currently amended) A method of Claim 9 wherein said nutritional diet
2 comprises more than 0.70% by weight of directly available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine.

1 14. (currently amended) A method of Claim 10 wherein said nutritional diet
2 comprises more than 0.70% by weight of directly available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine.

1 15. (currently amended) A method of Claim 11 wherein said nutritional diet
2 comprises more than 0.70% by weight of directly available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine.

1 16-25. (canceled)

1 26. (previously presented) A method of Claim 8 wherein said animal
2 comprises a cat less than about 1 year old.

1 27. (previously presented) A method of Claim 9 wherein said animal
2 comprises an adult cat.

28-32. (canceled)

1 33. (currently amended) A method of promoting in an animal the synthesis of
2 hair melanin comprising:

3 feeding an animal selected from the group consisting of a cat and a dog a
4 nutritional diet comprising from about 0.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of a
5 bioavailable amino acid ~~selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, phenylalanine, and~~
6 ~~mixtures thereof~~, for promoting in the animal the synthesis of hair melanin.

34-36. (canceled)

1 37. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said directly
2 available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine comprises more than 0.70% by weight of the supplemented
3 consumable.

1 38. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said
2 indirectly available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine comprises more than 0.80% by weight of the
3 supplemented consumable.

1 39. (currently amended) A method according to claim 37, wherein said
2 indirectly available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine comprises more than 0.80% by weight of the
3 supplemented consumable.

1 40. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said directly
2 available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine comprises more than 0.20% by weight of the supplemented
3 consumable.

1 41. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said directly
2 available ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine comprises a bioavailable ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine.

1 42. (currently amended) A method according to claim 41, wherein said
2 bioavailable ~~amino acid~~ tyrosine comprises from about 0.50% by weight to about 3.00% by
3 weight of the supplemented consumable.

1 43. (currently amended) A method according to claim 41, wherein said
2 bioavailable ~~amino-acid~~ tyrosine comprises from about 1.00% by weight to about 3.00% by
3 weight of the supplemented consumable.

1 44. (currently amended) A method according to claim 41, wherein said
2 bioavailable ~~amino-acid~~ tyrosine comprises from about 1.50% by weight to about 3.00% by
3 weight of the supplemented consumable.

1 45. (currently amended) A method according to claim 41, wherein said
2 bioavailable ~~amino-acid~~ tyrosine comprises from more than 1.65% by weight to less than 2.40%
3 by weight of the supplemented consumable.

1 46. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said
2 nutritional diet comprises from about 0.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the amino
3 acid tyrosine.

1 47. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said
2 nutritional diet comprises from about 1.00% by weight to about 3.00%-by weight of the amino
3 acid tyrosine.

1 48. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said
2 nutritional diet comprises from about 1.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the amino
3 acid tyrosine.

1 49. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 33 wherein said
2 nutritional diet comprises from about 1.00% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the
3 bioavailable ~~amino-acid~~ tyrosine.

1 50. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 33 wherein said
2 nutritional diet comprises from about 1.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the
3 bioavailable ~~amino-acid~~ tyrosine.

- 1 51. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 33 wherein said
2 nutritional diet comprises from more than 1.65% by weight to less than 2.40% by weight of the
3 bioavailable ~~amino-acid~~ tyrosine.